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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,770	09/15/2003	Reinhold Fuessinger	080404.52662US	7278
23911	7590	07/14/2004	EXAMINER	
CROWELL & MORING LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300			ADDIE, RAYMOND W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/661,770

Applicant(s)

FUESSINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Raymond W. Addie

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 and 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2/09/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Don Evenson on 7/2/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **In the Claims:**

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claim 2, ln. 1, the phrase "Laying method according to claim 1" has been changed to --  
The method according to Claim 11--.

Claim 3, ln. 1, the phrase "Laying method according to claim 1" has been changed to --  
The method according to Claim 11--.

Claim 4, ln. 1, the phrase "Bridge girder according to Claim", has been changed to --The  
method of claim--.

Claim 5, ln. 1, the phrase "Bridge girder according to Claim", has been changed to --The  
method of claim--.

Claim 6, ln. 13, the word "whereby" has been changed to --wherein--.

**New Claim 11 has been added.**

Claim 11 (new) A method for erecting a collapsible bridge girder over an obstacle comprising:

positioning a laying beam in front of an obstacle to be bridged, said laying beam having laying beam rails,  
pushing a bridge girder along the laying beam rails utilizing rollers and roller carriers fastened to the bridge girder with the rollers running along the laying beam rails,  
removing the rollers and roller carriers from the bridge girder after the rollers leave an exit end of the rails, and  
refastening the removed rollers and roller carriers to the bridge girder at a position of the bridge girder which is located momentarily ahead of an entry to the laying beam rails.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parramore

# 4,521,932 in view of Weideck et al. # 5,553,341.

Parramore discloses a mobile bridge system comprising:

A plurality of bridge girder sections (30, 31).

A laying beam (112) operable to support the bridge girder sections (30, 31) during laying of a bridge with the bridge girder sections sequentially moved along the length of the laying beam (112) and being connected together to form a bridge girder which is longer than said laying beam.

Rollers (113) which are detachably connected with the bridge girder sections to support the bridge girder sections for rolling movement along said laying beam while being removable from the bridge girder sections, after the bridge girder sections (30, 31) have passed over the length of the laying beam.

Wherein the girder sections (30, 31) can be laid end to end using the rollers with removal of the rollers from the bridge girder sections that have passed beyond the length of the laying beam. See col. 6, Ins. 33-51.

What Parramore does not disclose is the use of rollers that can translate the length of the laying beam. However, Wiedeck et al. discloses a roller carrier (1) for portable bridges (10). Said roller carriers (1) comprising a plurality of rollers (5) that support truss type bridge girders as said girders translate across rails of a laying beam of conventional bridge deploying vehicles/machines. Said roller carriers (1) being detachably connected to said girders and said laying beam (at 10). Such that said roller carriers are capable of being removed from said laying beam rails,

so that said roller carriers could be reattached to another girder section intended to be introduced to said laying beam for sequential deployment and connection to adjacent truss girders, thereby forming an extended bridge way.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide the laying beam apparatus of Parramore with roller carriers, that support a plurality of rollers in multi-axis, rotatable relation, as taught by Wiedeck et al., in order to relieve stresses applied to the rollers by the deployment of the bridge girders. See Cols. 1-2.

In regards to Claims 7-10 Parramore discloses girder sections (30, 31) detachably connectable to one another via bridge girder connecting means (112). And that, the rollers are disposed under the girders (30, 31) they are intended to support and include upwardly extending lateral lugs having a detachable pin at a position above said bridge girder section member when in an "in use" position, see Fig. 23C, and connected with the bridge girder sections (30, 31). What Parramore does not disclose is at what point on the bridge girder sections (30, 31), the rollers (113) are detachably connected.

However, Wiedeck et al. discloses the bridge girders are supported on top of rollers (5), and are hence detachable from the bridge girder trusses at any point along the truss length. See Cols. 1-2.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 2-5, 11 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Helmke et al. # 4,962,556 discloses a collapsible bridge and deployment system. Thomas # 5,915,423 discloses a portable bridge-under-trolley system for deploying a portable bridge. Koss # 3,490,605 discloses a girder deployment apparatus and method.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond W. Addie whose telephone number is 703 305-0135. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-2pm, 6pm-8pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 703 308-3870. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**Raymond Addie**  
**Patent Examiner**  
**Group 3600**

**RWA**  
**7/12/04**